**GOLD BRIEFING – DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT TO ENABLE PRISONER VACCINATION PROGRAMME 08/01/21**

Introduction

You will all be aware that following the approval for use of a number of COVID-19 vaccines the government has embarked upon a nationwide programme of vaccination.

We have been working at pace with the NHS to enable health staff to vaccinate our prison residents in line with the government's high-priority groups. Our prisoner vaccination programme will begin mobilising soon with the delivery to prisons of starter packs of the enabling equipment needed by Health Teams to vaccinate the over 80’s population and the clinically vulnerable. This amounts to just over 300 prison residents across around 70 sites.

At this stage, the government’s priority is to vaccinate the most vulnerable people (by age and/or clinical vulnerability) and therefore during this current phase, HMPPS staff will be vaccinated in the community and in line with the priority roll-out.

This briefing is to alert you to the imminent arrival of the starter packs at establishments, and to highlight the operational requirements that need to be in place.

**Prisons in Wales** – Vaccine management and delivery is being managed by Local Health Boards. Your Heads of Healthcare are linked in to all of the relevant planning bodies. Please make sure you are in regular contact with your heath team and contact Aine Gawthorpe or Laura Lewis if you have additional questions.

Timescale:

* Vaccine Starter kits will begin arriving at prisons in January. Healthcare providers will be able to confirm actual dates by establishment.

Operational requirements

* In advance of deliveries, the local Healthcare team will receive a notification to confirm that kit has been dispatched to them. Please instruct your Healthcare representative to inform the Governor and other relevant colleagues (e.g. COVID SPOC) when they receive this.
* For this reason, Governors should liaise with health colleagues as soon as possible.  The enabling kit is a healthcare responsibility and MUST be receipted by a **healthcare member of staff**. **This should not be received by HMPPS Gate staff.**
* However, it is vital that gate staff know about this planned delivery and are instructed to contact relevant healthcare colleagues and must use the usual mechanisms at their disposal to contact healthcare if they are not at the Gate already.
* In prisons without a permanent health presence (e.g. open prisons) Governors should liaise with their health point of contact to ensure arrangements are made for the receipt and safe storage of all items– this cannot be receipted by HMPPS staff and we cannot allow these items to be stored awaiting collection in the Gate.
* The delivery will come from a standard courier or as part of specialist healthcare delivery and will initially consist of a Barcode scanner, the first delivery may also include enabling kit such as spill kits and swabs. The barcode scanner is Bluetooth enabled and this has been cleared for use in prisons by SOCT (please see the attached document).



* Prisons in LTHSE will need to make arrangements with their local healthcare provider to ensure that all kit is prioritised for clearance through the RID store and there is no gap between RID clearance and collection by healthcare. The healthcare member of staff must take custody of these items promptly after RID clearance, it cannot be delivered by prison staff to healthcare areas.
* The kit must be stored in the healthcare department who will be responsible for it at all times.
* **This kit must be accepted** by a member of the healthcare team. It cannot be accepted by anyone else. There will be a member of healthcare on site at point of delivery because the vaccination will be delivered during healthcare core days and core hours.
* **If Healthcare is closed at the point of delivery the delivery will be taken away.**

Please note, these are vital pieces of equipment to enable prisoner vaccinations - without them, vaccinations will not happen, and we will not be able to deliver the government commitment.

We will be issuing operational guidance on the rest of the vaccination process as soon as possible, including how the vaccination itself is administered and considerations for managing vaccinated prisoners. Further information will also be issued soon on staff vaccinations.

Please also ensure your PGD offices are sighted on the email from Sarah Newell on the 7th January regarding the requirement for completion of the PGD readiness assessment. This must be returned as detailed in the email by 12pm 11th January.

For further information on our COVID-19 response please see the operational guidance platform (accessible via: <https://hmppsintranet.org.uk/except/> ) and direct any queries to: [COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk](mailto:COVID19.Regimes&OpsGuidance@justice.gov.uk).

Many thanks,

**COVID-19 Gold Command**